

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 and 10-22 remain in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 16-22 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on a separate page. Claims 6-8 have been cancelled.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-5 and 7-12 have been rejected as being obvious over Reber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,555) in view of the admitted prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 3 on page 6 of the Office action, claims 6 and 13-22 have been rejected as being obvious over Reber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,555) in view of Tuttle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,791) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejections have been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Therefore, the claims should be patentable for the reasons given below. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 2 and in claims 8 and 9 and on page 11, line 22 through page 12, line 3 of the specification of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

"a plurality of transponders each attached to said textile carrier part, each having a respective electronic component, and each being associated with a respective one of said care symbols; and

each respective electronic component holding information corresponding to a respective care symbol."

The Reber et al. reference discloses a product care label that is attached to a textile product (20), which has an electronic tag (22) providing care instructions for the textile product. The tag includes information on the identity of the item, washing instructions, drying instructions, folding instructions, water processing information, number of times washed, and number of times dried.

The reference does not show or suggest a plurality of transponders each attached to the textile carrier part, each having a respective electronic component, and each being associated with a respective one of the care symbols, and

each respective electronic component holding information corresponding to a respective care symbol, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. The Reber et al. reference discloses a relatively complex transponder, which includes information on all of the care instructions of the textile product. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which each care symbol on the textile carrier part has its own transponder, which corresponds to the instructions of the particular care symbol.

Furthermore, the use of an individual transponder associated with each care symbol indicated on the product label allows the use of a simple transponder. The transponder does not have to be constructed in a costly manner nor does it have to be configured newly in a complicated manner for each material. Instead, for each care symbol an assigned transponder will be applied simultaneously onto a textile or plastic band during manufacture. Also there is no logistical expenditure to assign a special complicated transponder to a specific kind of textile as each care symbol has its own transponder. If a specific transponder is assigned to each care symbol, the conventional production machines used for producing product care labels can be used in a simple manner. Therefore, it is not required to supply new machines or plants, which would be required if a complex transponder having multiple pieces of

information is used for a product care label with multiple care instructions.

It is further noted that the transponders according to the instant application are very inexpensive. Therefore, the product label with a transponder assigned to each care symbol is far less expensive to produce than a product care label that has a single but complex transponder.

Claim 13 calls for, inter alia:

"printing a plurality of care symbols onto a carrier tape; and simultaneously attaching a plurality of transponders onto the carrier tape with each care symbol being associated with a respective transponder."

Regarding item 3 on page 4 of the office action, rejecting claims 6 and 13-22 over Reber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,555) in view of Tuttle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,791) under 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is noted that the Tuttle et al. reference discloses a radio frequency identification transceiver and antenna for use as stamps, labels, and tags in object tracking systems including systems for mail delivery, airline baggage tracking, and inventory control.

The references do not show or suggest printing a plurality of care symbols onto a carrier tape, and simultaneously attaching a plurality of transponders onto the carrier tape with each care symbol being associated with a respective transponder, as recited in claim 13 on the instant application. The Reber et al. reference discloses applying a relatively complex transponder to the carrier tape, which includes information for all of the care instructions of the textile product. The Tuttle et al. reference discloses applying a radio frequency identification transceiver and antenna for the purpose of tracking and inventory control. Neither reference discloses a simultaneous application of transponders to a carrier tape such that each care symbol is associated with its transponder as claimed in the instant application.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1 and 13. Claims 1 and 13 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 13, they are believed to be patentable as well.

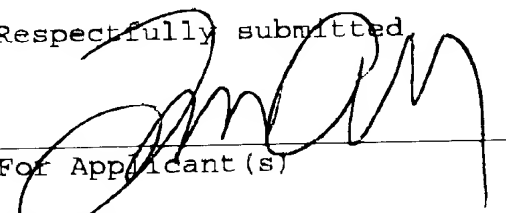
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 10-22 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of three months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$920 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted


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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (amended). A product care label to be attached to a textile product, comprising:

a textile carrier part having [at least one care instruction] a plurality of care symbols including information on suitable care of a textile product;

[at least one transponder] a plurality of transponders each attached to said textile carrier part, each having [an] a respective electronic component, and each being associated with a respective one of said care symbols; and

[said at least one transponder being attached to said textile carrier part; and]

[said] each respective electronic component holding information corresponding to [said at least one care instruction] a respective care symbol.

Claim 13 (amended). A method for producing a product care label for textiles, which comprises:

printing [at least one of a care symbol and a care instruction] a plurality of care symbols onto a carrier tape; and

simultaneously attaching [at least one transponder] a plurality of transponders onto the carrier tape with each care symbol being associated with a respective transponder.

Claim 16 (amended). The method according to claim 13, wherein the attaching step is performed by simultaneously applying [at least one transponder] the plurality of transponders to the carrier tape.

Claim 17 (amended). The method according to claim 13, wherein the attaching step is performed by simultaneously printing [at least one transponder] the plurality of transponders on the carrier tape

Claim 18 (amended). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises pressing a flat chip of the [at least one transponder] plurality of transponders into a synthetic resin casing.

Claim 19 (amended). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises introducing a flat chip of the [at least one

[transponder] plurality of transponders into a synthetic resin casing.

Claim 20 (amended). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises pressing a flat coil of the [at least one transponder] plurality of transponders into a synthetic resin casing.

Claim 21 (amended). The method according to claim 13, which further comprises introducing a flat coil of the [at least one transponder] plurality of transponders into a synthetic resin casing.

Claim 22 (amended). The method according to claim 13, wherein the attaching step is performed by fastening the [at least one transponder] plurality of transponders on the carrier tape with an adhesive.